

Nation

ELECTIONS CANADA 2000

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TIME TO PARTY

Well it has been a busy month and it hasn't even gotten into Christmas yet. I love the United States election process for two reasons. One is that they get to elect their leader independent of the party. Of course the way they elect the leader is a bit weird with the electoral college and all that but it's cool. The second is the never-ending battle to attain a viable third party alternative for voters. Got to give old Ralph Nader a pat on the back for trying it even though he might have sunk Gore.

Still that is cool.

I was infected with Naders enthusiasm and decided along with Brian Zelnicker to see what kind of alternatives Canadians were "partying" with. Too my glee there was a few pages to the list Elections Canada put out. However, I did notice one thing, and that was while there were parties for almost everything under the sun, there wasn't a Aboriginal Party. I think the challenge for the new millennium would be to organize one. One that wouldn't be limited to Aboriginal membership but would reflect First Nations values, traditions and way of life. Think of it! I mean just think of it!

You've got four years to think of it as a matter of fact. Surely within four years we could come up with a platform, party policies and candidates!

by Will Nicholls

Can any mainstream party meet the needs of Aboriginal and like-minded people? I don't think so. Just look at the problems with gun control for one example. It was done without consultation and affects more than the First Nations way of life.

Look at the environmental concerns people have. An alliance with the Green Party could see some sort of action. At least our voices would be heard and that is important. I have the results of merely having your issues in the open. If they are well thought out then they may be acted upon. I've noticed that in the Cree game of politics that some of the platforms of the candidates even though they didn't win were acted upon. If those candidates didn't raise the issues or have those things mentioned in their platform it might have taken longer for actions to be taken, so being a part of the process can be rewarding.

I would also like to see more Aboriginal candidates out there to counteract some of the other party platforms. I hate to namecall but the Canadian Reform Conservative Alliance's bit about removing tax-free status and minority hiring policies scares the hell out me. There needs to be a balance of some sort and perhaps an Aboriginal Party is an idea whose time has come.

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Tree in Eeyou Istchee

Photographer: Unknown

Cover Design: MONA LAVIOLETTE

Election Fever...

Attacks entire continent

Bush, vs Gore, Chretien vs Day, Cooncome vs Fontaine and the list goes on. Who the hell knows who to vote for any more. Somedays I wonder if elections really do matter and if the results of those promises made by the winners actually come true. Perhaps there's a way to interpret beforehand the promises made by those you vote for, presented in actual and real terms. I know that if you vote for me, what I say is really what I mean to carry out. Oops, sorry, didn't mean to get political in this satire of modern politics, but what the heck, ... 'Vote for me' as my infamous predecessor (Ndiamon) often said, without much success, I must add. Perhaps, there's a lesson to be learned from all this... that the real winners of any election are the winners of the election themselves, not the people who voted for or against them.

I've written up a number of campaign promises from politicians and I've interpreted those promises into their true meanings. These interpretations are down in a serious manner, not unlike the interpretation of bad dreams you often read about in those sleazy tabloids.

Promise : Vote for me and I'll decrease the unemployment rate- really means- I intend to hire everyone in my family and give them jobs that no-one will ever be able to replace, and the same goes for my extended family and especially the juiciest jobs, I'll give to my best friends.

Promise : If elected, the crime rate will go down - really means- I'll decrease the budget for the peacekeepers so that the number of actual crimes will never be reported to the police and never ever be brought to court, bringing all crime statistics down.

Promise : I'll increase the number of housing units so that everyone will have a home really means- I'll buy all the 25 year old trailers from Hydro Quebec and create a massive trailer park.

Promise : The first order of business will be to tackle the deficit - really means- once I get that high paying position, I'll make sure to pay off all my bills and debts.

Promise : I'll do something positive for the youth and give them what ever they need to grow into the positive influence that all our communities need- really means- I'll ignore them until they're too old to be eligible to be considered to be youth and those that are young enough,

what the hell, give them the garbage duty again this summer and clean up the mess that us older folks left behind.

Promise : Economic development is a priority- really means- let's get into business that no-one knows how to carry out, then when we're in financial trouble, we'll hire experts to tell us where we went wrong by writing a 500 page report on the only reason why- we spend too much money : honorarium and board of directors per diems, plus travel and lodging expenses.

Promise : that all band run organizations will be reorganized- really means- I'll change the job titles of my cronies and make them sound more important so that if anyone questions their motives and actions, the treasurer/auditor/anyone lower than them in the corporate structure, will always get the blame for their mistakes.

Promise : A new arena so we can have the next Gretskey! - really means- no more shoveling and fresh air, and driving the Zamboni is fun!

Promise : Meetings will be held in the communities so that the benefits will reflect on the local economy - really means- three more years of meeting in Montreal/Ottawa/Val d'Or to actually make the decision to meet in the communities in the future.

Promise : to create a postive environment for our children so that they will grow into fine examples for the community- really means : I'll send my kids out to some other school down south so that they will have a greater edge on the other kids, when it comes time to hire them for those juicy jobs.

Alcoholism and drug abuse will go down- really means- I'll party in another time zone where no-one knows me.

Promise : to carry out all resolutions passed before by the boards/councils/etc... before me- really means- I'll by-pass all decision making processes and implement the ones that make me look good, even though it wasn't my idea and I opposed it in the last election campaign.

Promise- I'll increase the visibility of our community in the eyes of our nation - really means- We'll have a standoff/roadblock/useless demonstration, and get shot at by the militia/police force/gamewardens over the issue of gun control legislation.

Whatever the promise is, there really is an underlying reason for that politician to want to get elected. It never really is for the promises, but for the promise of power.

'Nuff said, so next time, vote for me and I promise not to make any promises.

The Nation is published every two weeks

by Beesum Communications

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THANKS TO:

Air Creebec, Nicholls family,

PRINTED BY QUEBECOR
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PUBLICATION MAIL #0584584
ISSN #1206-2642



THE NATION IS A MEMBER OF:

THE JAMES BAY CREE COMMUNICATIONS SOCIETY,
CIRCLE OF ABORIGINAL CONTROLLED PUBLISHERS,
CANADIAN MAGAZINE PUBLISHERS ASSN,
QUEBEC COMMUNITY NEWSPAPER ASSN,
CANADIAN COMMUNITY NEWSPAPERS' ASSN
LES HEBDOS SÉLECT DU QUÉBEC

WHERE TO REACH US:

POSTMASTER:

5505 ST-LAURENT, #3018

MONTREAL, QC., H2T 1S6

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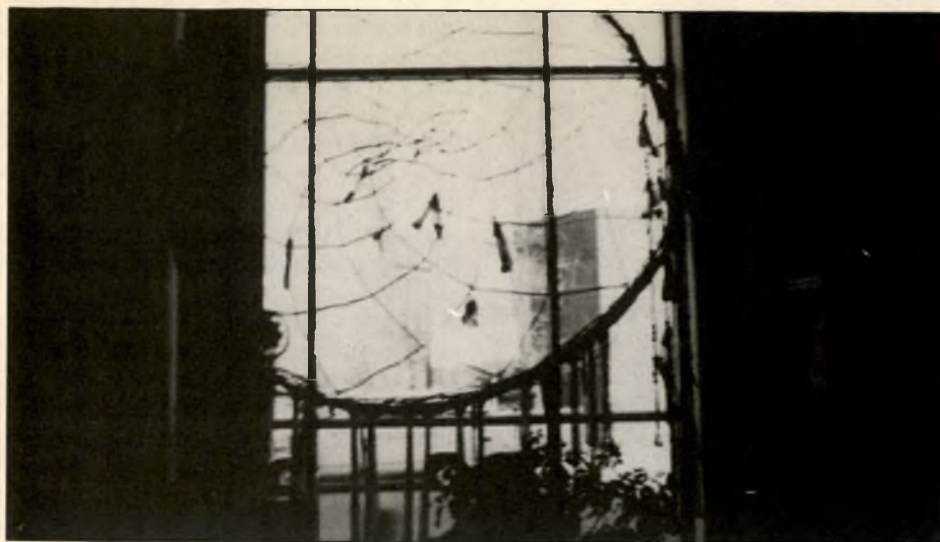
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Nation



UPHEAVAL AT NATIVE FRIENDSHIP CENTRE

Montreal's Native Friendship Centre is in turmoil after a new board of directors suspended its two top administrators and placed them under investigation.

The sudden suspensions have sent shockwaves through Montreal's 50,000-strong Native community.

The investigation was announced in a terse, two-paragraph communiqué sent out by the centre on Oct. 31, just 11 days after the Oct. 20 annual general meeting at which the new board was elected.

Placed on "administrative suspension" are two of the centre's longest-serving employees, executive director Ida LaBillois-Montour and the assistant executive director, Josianne Wanono.

LaBillois-Montour has worked at the centre 18 years, 14 of them as executive director. Wanono has also been in her job 14 years. They were both suspended with pay for the duration of the investigation.

The inquiry is being conducted by Roger Obonsawin and Irwin Lluba, both of Obonsawin Lluba Consulting Inc.

Centre officials were tight-lipped about what they are hoping to uncover, refusing to respond to any questions from *The Nation*.

Several sources said the investigation revolves around complaints from three individuals associated with the centre.

On Nov. 8, the centre issued another statement announcing a special assembly on Nov. 21 to discuss the affair. A petition had circulated calling for the assembly.

"I'm still in shock," said LaBillois-Montour. "I'm telling you, I didn't do anything. My whole life was spent in that place. We

worked so hard."

LaBillois-Montour said she is confused about why she was suspended, speculating that some of the new board members may be motivated by "revenge."

She said some are former disgruntled employees of the centre who may be harbouring a grudge against her or Wanono.

She said her main worry is that the centre will have a hard time getting grant agencies to keep giving much-needed funds while the centre is in turmoil.

"The major threat is that we will lose the centre," LaBillois-Montour said. "Nobody's going to want to touch us. They're not going to want to give us money now."

The suspensions have left the Native community bitterly divided and prompted a wave of resignations at the centre.

Two of the centre's board members resigned last week — Mary Niquanicappo of Whapmagoostui and Nakuset, also known as Marcy Shapiro.

Niquanicappo will stay on as secretary of the centre's youth council (see Letters, page 21).

As well, a member of the centre's advisory board, Arnold Saulteaux, has resigned from his position after he was reportedly threatened by one of the new board members, Serge Watso.

The Nov. 21 assembly promises to be heated. The agenda items include the alleged threat against Saulteaux, "the abuse of power on the part of board members" and "the abuse of power which was used in the calling of an investigation without prior approval from voting members and community mem-

by Alex Roslin

see TURMOIL, page 9

Young mother, infant die in cabin fire

The Senneterre Cree community is in shock after a terrible tragedy at a hunting camp claimed the lives of a young mother and her infant son during the moose break.

The two died in a fire that enveloped their hunting cabin 105 kilometres east of Senneterre by logging road.

The deceased are Harriet Capissisit, 32, and her son Joey, who was only three months old -- both Crees of Senneterre.

Family members in nearby cabins spotted the fire at around 6 a.m. on Sept. 23. "They tried to get them out but it was too late," said Sûreté du Québec Agent Claude Couture, who is investigating the cause of the fire.

The family rushed to an outfitter's camp 40 km away, where they called police on a satellite phone. Couture said the SQ arrived just over an hour later.

Couture, based in the region's major-crimes unit in Rouyn-Noranda, said the investigation is ongoing and would not reveal the cause of the fire.

Help free Peltier!

U.S. President Bill Clinton has pledged to give Native political prisoner Leonard Peltier a "fair hearing" in his request for clemency.

Clinton will review Peltier's case in the 10 weeks before he leaves the White House.

Peltier supporters believe this may be the last chance to get him out.

Call the White House Comments Line toll-free at 1-800-663-9566 from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., or after hours at (202) 456-1111.

Noosekan at centre of Waskaganish storm

Waskaganish was abuzz last month about a letter by former chief Billy Diamond harshly criticizing the current chief, Robert Weistche.

The widely distributed seven-page letter, dated Sept. 28, followed a dispute between the band and Diamond in his capacity as president of Noosekan, the band's construction joint venture.

During the summer, the band accused Noosekan of not being accountable to the

see BRIEFS, page 7

Health

To the Readers of the Nation

I must say I was both dismayed and surprised that such a letter appeared on the November 3rd, 2000 issue of the Nation (Vo. 7 No. 25 by Francois Gunner).

Dismayed in the sense the accusations stated in the letter are very serious both at the individual and the organizational levels. Surprised because I thought these 'issues' were sorted out by regular correspondence.

Mr. Gunner and Union representatives have never been a target or subject to pressure tactics by the Cree Health Board administration.

Before I go any further, it is worthwhile to explain to the readers that organizations operate in specific ways on order to meet their functions. Persons are recruited for permanent employment through a selection committee made up of members from Human Resources department and persons from the department (usually the supervisor) for which the position has to be filled. It is very serious to think that any manager would manipulate the workings of a selection committee. A selection committee is put together to receive, examine and decide which applicants from a particular posting will be invited for the interview based on the qualifications required. After interviews are finished and references done, it is the duty of the selection committee to make a recommendation as to who should be hired.

During all this process, the selection committee does its work with no interference. To allege that a person not part of any selection committee would interfere in the process and orientation of that committee raises a very serious ethical question. Such an allegation places questions not only on the person supposedly interfering but also on the committee members themselves for allowing any interferences or 'manipulation'. The 'dirty job' mentioned in the November 3rd letter happened to be clarification made by the chairman based on consultations with the staff involved and which addressed Mr. Gunner's allegations.

This letter by the Chairperson was in response to Mr. Gunner's own letter to him, not the result of any mandate to do a 'dirty job'.

Mr. Gunner presently has a hearing scheduled before a labour commissioner and this will be the appropriate forum to

hear Mr. Gunner's allegations.

Yours very truly
James Bobbish
Executive Director
Cree Board of Health and Social Services
of James Bay

Cree Miners

In Will's article on the second mining conference, page 21, October 20, 2000 issue. There seems to be many issues that were discussed at this conference that have to be more closely examined. For instance the exploration within hunting territories. These territories, even the coastal territories have been explored for the most part, probably the last 20 to 50 years. Yet, we still have few Cree working in the exploration camps each season that dot the Cree territory. Although no major mine has opened in these territories yet, millions of dollars has already been spent, exploring Cree territories where no jobs, or minimal jobs, probably or maybe line cutting jobs have been shared with the Cree communities. For us along the coast, as far as I know, we are just starting to develop our interest, and maybe training in these fields. However, we still need jobs where our members can be part of this activity, because it is an economic activity. This is only one issue.

Another is the tax collected by the government from the companies for the right to explore. I know we benefit from tax dollars towards the maintenance and development of our communities. But, who benefits from these taxes collected? Since only a tiny fraction from what they collect from other activities on our traditional lands actually comes back to us as money for our communities?

Another is, do these companies who explore and operate on our traditional lands do they go through proper environmental studies that are the law under the James Bay Agreement? Although we may need the money for our people to live comfortably from Trolius for example, did they do the proper environmental reviews to have this mine open in somebody's traditional territory? Did he benefit? In what way? There seems to be little information on how we deal with mining companies who operate on our lands. If we sit back and let them, with our help, push mining operations without proper legal environmental studies, would this be bootlegging our rights that we talk about protecting everyday?

There also seems to be a lack of sharing within the Cree Nation on the benefits of Mining at Trolius, or other mines

In the Mailbox

in our territory. How does Chisasibi benefit for example by what is happening at Trolius, since other Crees benefit substantially from the sacrifice made by the Chisasibi Crees for electricity generated from dams in the Chisasibi Traditional Territories? Why is not the same for Mining, since we say it is our land also? We along the coast maybe young in the field of Mining exploration and development, but we still need our share of the wealth.

There will eventually be mines opening up hopefully in the near future. Where we will again have to deal with governments and those mining companies who will claim the wealth that is under the ground. I am sure because I know that there are good prospects in some traditional territories. Should we not be part of this negotiation process when it happens? I am sure we will be again, but we have been negotiating as if endlessly to be a real part of the regional economy, but we hardly seem to be getting anywhere. So what should we do? Many times it is those who really need the jobs, the untrained, unskilled who could benefit from the mostly labor-intensive jobs in mining exploration, but they always seem to be the ones left out. There are so many people looking for work in our communities, some of these people should be rescued and trained to do some of those jobs where minimal training is required. It is about time we put our foot down on those companies who basically exclude us from their exploration and probable development activities. We need these jobs period, and we need training. A public campaign I think is a good idea.

One more thing that bothers me is why we have to heed to the government where he sets the rules for activities within our territories. We should be the ones doing this job, of course with our own help. We always say that this is our land. If that is so, why not collect the taxes and fees from the mining companies and others who exploit our territories daily. There are jobs to be created in tax and fee collection, so why not go ahead and do this? Besides there is money to be made in the mining and other sectors. I am sure that we will not scare away companies because they know that there is potential for another voiseys Bay on Cree Lands. I probably left out a lot of the major issues, but I just wanted to point out those that came to mind when I was writing, until next time.

Wachiya! C.H.S. in Cree Territory

Ed. Note: The preceeding letter was chopped last issue due to a problem. We present it in its entirety with apologies.

Cont'n on page 21

Briefs...

continued from page 5



WASKAGANISH BAND TO REIN IN POLICE

The Waskaganish band is in the middle of considering major reforms to its police force just as allegations of police brutality surface in the community.

One band official said some police officers are not accountable to the community. "Complaints are getting lost in the shuffle and are not being followed up on. There seems to be some resistance on the part of some police officers to the police director," said the official, who spoke on condition of anonymity.

"The police feel kind of isolated, not supported. There isn't a cohesive effort to solve problems and bring people together," said the official.

"The police are like 'It's hands off. It's our area of jurisdiction. Even the band council shouldn't be involved in our affairs,'" he said.

The band is now examining a comprehensive report on its police force that recommends major changes, said the official.

"We are going to have to put a massive effort into correcting the problem," he said.

The reform effort comes as the Sûreté du Québec investigates two Waskaganish police officers for allegedly assaulting a community member while he was being detained in the local jail.

(Last issue, we reported that one officer was under investigation. A band source has since informed us that two officers are being investigated.)

The community member, Christopher Stephen, said he

was arrested after drunkenly disrupting a church service on August 6.

Stephen said that after he was jailed, he was verbally abusive toward an officer, who responded by punching and kicking him for "five or 10 minutes."

Stephen faces charges of assaulting and uttering threats against a police officer, and a charge of uttering threats to cause bodily harm to an officer's children, said Jim Hester, Waskaganish chief of police.

He has a court date on November 9 in Waskaganish.

Stephen said he was too afraid of the police to file a complaint about being beaten in the cell.

Another Cree who overheard the beating filed a complaint, he said. We could not confirm this independently.

After Stephen was released from the jail, he said he went to the Waskaganish Wellness Centre, where counselor Charles Esau witnessed his bruises. Esau confirmed to *The Nation* that he saw bruises on Stephen's face right after his release: "He wasn't in good shape."

But Esau added that he could not confirm where, when or how Stephen received the bruises. "I didn't witness the fact that he was assaulted," he said.

Ernest Blueboy, local public-safety officer, wouldn't comment on the case, saying only: "You're innocent until proven guilty." He said the SQ was called in because police rules state that such

incidents must be investigated by an outside force.

by Alex Roslin

community. There has even been talk of shutting down the joint venture.

Diamond, for his part, is seeking to get paid for being president of Noosekan; he is not paid at present. Also, he is seeking a severance payment after his years as chief.

Now, *The Nation* has obtained a letter from Weistche responding to Diamond.

"I believe your letter to be a vindictive personal attack upon myself and other credible people, and I absolutely refuse to respond to outrageous allegations and distortion of the facts," starts out Weistche's letter, which is dated Oct. 24.

Weistche says the severance and payment issues are still being studied.

He adds, "I want to inform you that there has never been any severance paid out to previous chiefs. This would set a precedent and could possibly be open to scrutiny and more questions concerning past liabilities."

Noosekan will be the subject of a community meeting in November.

Grant off to Juniors

Waswanipi teenage hockey wizard Travis Grant is skating a little lighter this season after he was the first draft choice in the third round of the Quebec Major Junior Hockey League.

Grant was drafted by the Foreurs of Val d'Or. Since he just turned 16, he's still too young and is playing the season as a centre with the Amos Forestiers Midget AAA team.

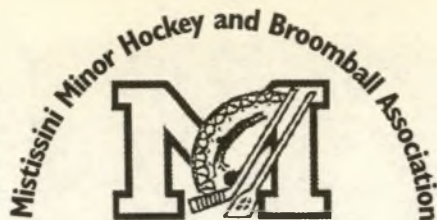
"The Foreurs have an option to take him when he's ready," said Foreurs general manager Stéphane Pilote.

"We absolutely wanted to have him. There were other teams that wanted him. He shows great talent," he said.

Grant, who is 6'1", already has quite the career under his belt. He's been playing the game since age 4, joined the Chibougamau Novice team at 9, then played three years in Quebec City and Montreal, before coming back home at 13 to play for the Cree Nation Bears Bantam CC team.

"He's dreaming to play in the NHL. He's got a chance -- he's still young," said proud father Jos Saganash. Dad was a hockey legend in his own right, playing centre for

see BRIEFS, page 9



Mistissini Minor Hockey & Broomball Association

Cree Nation of Mistissini, Qc

On behalf of the Mistissini Minor Hockey and Broomball Association and the organizing committee, it is with great pleasure to officially invite you to participate in our:

Mistissini Annual Minor Hockey and Broomball Tournament November 16, 17, 18, & 19, 2000

We are including seven (7) categories in this year's tournament

Categories	# of Teams	Inscription	Champions	Finalists
Pee-Wee	Four(4)	\$300.00	\$1000.00	\$500.00
Atom Hockey	Four(4)	\$200.00	\$600.00	\$300.00
Novice Hockey	Four(4)	\$200.00	\$600.00	\$300.00
Pre-Novice Hockey	Four(4)	\$150.00	\$300.00	\$150.00
Cadette Broomball	Four(4)	\$300.00	\$1000.00	\$500.00
Novice Broomball	Four(4)	\$200.00	\$600.00	\$300.00
Pre-Novice Broomball	Four(4)	\$150.00	\$300.00	\$150.00

We will be giving away cash prizes, Trophies. Medals will be awarded to finalists. Individual trophies will also be presented to all categories. Also, Game Stars will be selected for all games. Prize money may vary depending on the number of teams that register.

All teams must send their inscription fee in full before the deadline date!!

For more **information**,

Contact Robie Petawabano at the

Mistissini sports & Recreation department @ (418) 923-3461 ext. 246

COUNCIL OF THE CREE NATION OF MISTISSINI RECREATION DEPARTMENT
187 Main Street, Mistissini Lake (Quebec) G0W 1C0
Tel: (418) 923-3461 • Fax: (418) 923-3115

Briefs..

continued from page 7

the Gatineau Junior A team and the Apollos of Val d'Or, a Juvenile AAA crew.

By the beginning of November, Grant's Forestiers had a 3-1 game record. Last year, they were fourth in their division.

12 times more assault in Iiyuuschii

Assault rates in the Cree communities are 12 times the Quebec average, says Ken Hilt, the regional Cree police coordinator.

In one Cree community, the rate is a whopping 32 times higher, he said.

Hilt wouldn't identify the community, saying only, "I'd hate to name them. I don't think they'd be proud of that."

Hilt said 90 percent of the assaults were alcohol-related. He also said there is a "direct link" to the housing crisis and other social problems like bootlegging.

"Why does the phone ring at the police station? Because there's some social problems," he said.

Hilt studied the crime rates to help Cree officials determine the amount of officers and funding needed in the communities.

Cree cops say they are underfunded compared to their non-Native police colleagues.

Hilt based his calculations on incident rates reported to police on a per-capita basis between 1997 and 1999.

He said the Cree rate is the same as in other First Nations communities in Quebec; the average across the board is 12 times the provincial average.

For some other crimes, First Nations are much better off than the rest of Quebec, he said. There were few if any reports of prostitution or murders in Native communities in the period studied.

On the other hand, the rate of sexual assault was "slightly higher" than the Quebec average, while the rate of break-and-enters was about the same, said Hilt.

Alliance would end Native tax exemptions

The Canadian Alliance was on the defensive after an internal party document leaked out that revealed a secret agenda for



Waswanipi hockey wiz Travis Grant (centre) and family.

the country.

If elected, the right-wing party promises to eliminate tax exemptions for on-reserve First Nations people, according to a report in the *Globe and Mail*.

The party would also hold a free vote in the House of Commons on marijuana use, put the CBC up for sale and eliminate affirmative action in federal jobs for First

Nations people and others.

The policies go much farther than party leader Stockwell Day or his official platform have let on.

The document says the party "will ensure that Status Indians on-reserve have the same tax obligations as aboriginal people living off-reserve and all other Canadians."

Turmoil..

continued from page 5

bers."

In the Oct. 20 board election, most of the previous board of directors was replaced by a rival group of candidates.

Among those voted out was *Nation* editor William Nicholls, who was president of the board.

In an interview, Nicholls said he was "surprised that these allegations came up so suddenly. None of these allegations were ever brought to the previous board, and we were pretty accessible. To my knowledge, there has been no record of financial mismanagement at the friendship centre, ever."

Another source close to the situation said the upheaval "has really affected the community and different Native organizations. It's hard not to talk about it."

The source agreed that the new board never had a mandate from the community to suspend its administrators, and called the sudden move "a vendetta."

"I don't know what's happening because we weren't informed," she said.

The source also said some of the new

board members are "disgruntled employees," and she called the new board "very biased."

She expressed sorrow over the treatment of LaBillois-Montour and Wanono.

"This is not our way. They don't deserve it," she said.

Natalie Lloyd, the newly elected president of the centre's board, refused to make any comments. She said a statement will be issued "in a few weeks" when the investigation is complete.

Deborah Cooper, the centre's acting executive director, would not say whether the Nov. 21 assembly is open to the public. In fact, she said on Nov. 7 she hadn't even heard of the assembly: "This is the first time I'm hearing of this."

Serge Watso, the centre's newly elected secretary, also refused to confirm that an assembly will be held Nov. 21. "You're giving me news," he said.

Watso also refused to comment on the threat against Saulteaux, the turmoil at the centre, or anything else.

For example, when asked to confirm that he used to work for the RCMP — where he was employed as an undercover drug-squad officer — Watso replied, "I have no comment."

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By William Nicholls and Brian Zelnicker

No one will say the Canadian election will be as hotly contested as the U.S. presidential race, at least those in their right minds. Prime Minister Chretien called the election not as a result of taunts from Stockwell Day, but because he felt he could win another term becoming one of the few Canadian Prime Ministers to have three consecutive terms in that highest of offices in Canada. But the question remains on whether or not to vote? Can Crees make a difference. The answer is yes as in the last election the difference between the top two candidates seen the incumbent Liberal Candidate Guy St. Julian winning out over Bloc Quebecois candidate Jeannot Couture by a mere 2,635 votes. There are more than 2,635 voters in the Cree territory so the Crees can be seen as a political player giving victory to one party or the other. At present there are 4 candidates running the Abitibi-James Bay and Nunavik riding. They are from the Liberal, Bloc Quebecois, NDP and Alliance parties. As well as informing you about them, we've decided to have a little fun and cover all the parties recognized by Elections Canada. Enjoy. Ed. Note: The graphic of the solider came from the first web page of the Democratic Canadian Union Party.

Liberal Party

Candidate Guy St. Julian

The incumbent candidate, Guy St. Julian, has dreams. St. Julian's biggest dream is to give the Cree and the Inuit a chance at democracy. He is looking at making a Private Members Bill that would see the Abitibi-James Bay-Nunavik riding become three ridings consisting of Abitibi, James Bay and Nunavik. In fact St. Julian was responsible for the name change of the riding. "I changed the name of the electoral district two years ago," said St. Julian. He plans ahead and said "the strategy was there. It was about time. I like the Cree people and my dream is to see the Cree people inside of the Parliament." He said that it was time they came in off of the street. St. Julian says the province recognizes the size of the riding and have four ridings in the area compared to the Federals' one. He said it was difficult for one person to travel and get to know all of the area. "Do you know how many kilometers Gilles Duceppe (Bloc Quebecois leader) has to travel?" asked St. Julian. He said it was a riding nine kilometers long for a riding of 100,000 people compared to St. Julians' riding of 100,000 covering almost half of Quebec. St. Julian said he was happy that he had his wife along to help him drive so he could visit the Cree communities. St. Julian was one of the few candidates in the last election who actually knew how many Cree communities there were as well as having visited each community. He remembers going to

Waskaganish on the winter road and getting stuck three times on the way. "I got a free car wash," said St. Julian.

St. Julian is on the Standing Committee on Aboriginal Affairs and plans to be its next chairperson if he wins. He wants to fight for housing for First nations if he wins. He has a lot of experience in politics having started his political career in 1984. He has been a member of Parliament for a total of 12 years and six months. St. Julian sees himself as a backbencher who doesn't go after power but tries to serve his riding as best as he can. "My job in Parliament is to fight and say to the Minister's 'hey look, that case is not going ahead like it should,'" said St. Julian. "My job is not a speech and not a party (political). My job is to tell the Prime Minister and ministers that they only respect 50 per cent of the James Bay and Northern Quebec Agreement and they signed to respect 100 per cent of it. My job is there. I push the government. I don't work for the party first, I work for the people first." St. Julian said it's a difficult job but he enjoys it.

St. Julian talked about the recent \$20 million dollar deal the Crees signed with the Federal Government. St. Julian said he was still fighting to do something about the 2,000 houses backlog the Crees are experiencing in the Cree communities. "It's an issue that we can win if we work as a team," said St. Julian adding that he needs the participation of the Cree leadership to make it happen.

St. Julian would like to see the James Bay and Northern Quebec Agreement reopened with real dialogue between the Crees and the Federal and Provincial Governments. He would like to see more work on the economic sector and jobs for Crees. He is happy that Matthew Coon Come was elected National Grand Chief and sees this as an opportunity. "He pushes me and I push the Prime Minister," he said. "This year is the year for voting. I need your vote, not just for myself but for you. I ask that the Crees vote and I will go to the government and say 'Look at the mandate the Crees have given me. That vote is not for me but for the families, the children and people in James Bay. Give me a chance to create a new electoral district for the James Bay Crees. The new riding will include all of the nine communities and Matagami. That's all and that is an opportunity. All of the time in the past the MP's for the riding of Abitibi-James Bay-Nunavik have come from the south. I prefer that the Cree have a chance to have their own MP in Parliament. That's why I say to the Cree people to go and vote this year. I will appreciate it and work harder on your behalf."

Bloc Quebecois

Candidate: Francious Lemieux.

The Bloc came in a close second last election. Lemieux is a new face on the national ticket for the Abitibi-James Bay-Nunavik riding. He is a farmer, who just happens to be the mayor of Landrienne. Also, he's an official with the regional executive council of the Abitibi MRC. In the past Lemieux



Even the French aren't recognized by the Federal government as having that. We're recognized as a people but not a nation. I'm quite at ease recognizing Aboriginal people as nations because they always were nations," said Lemieux.

Progressive Conservative Party of Canada Candidate Sylvain Gemmes

I never have been able to figure out how the words progressive and conservative can be combined to form a party, but there you go. Party leader Joe Clark wants to secure the future of health care, the environment and education. Clark also claims to want a stronger economy and more integrity in government. Who doesn't? I can't really tell you what Sylvain Gemmes wants, because he wouldn't tell me. He returned my message promptly and politely, but didn't want to discuss issues. Seeing as I didn't call to talk about the weather, the call went no further. Thank you Mr. Gemmes

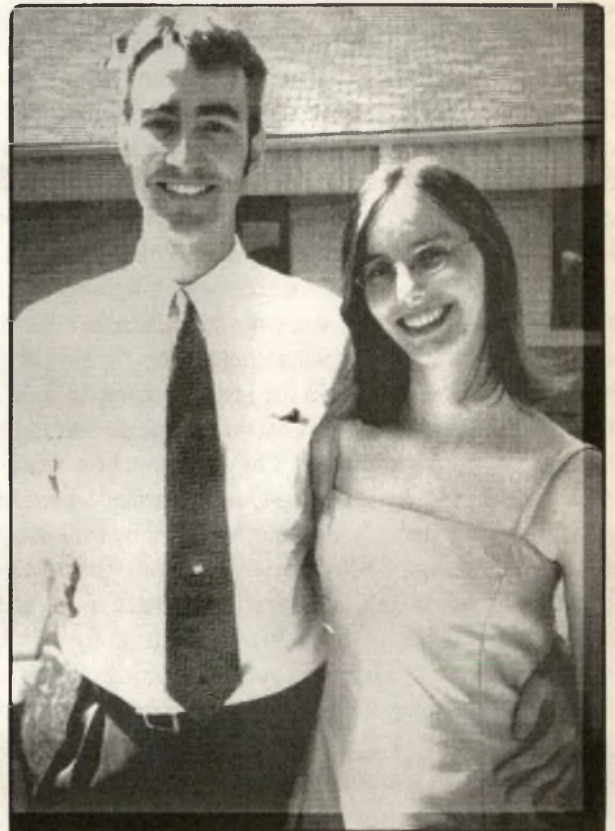
Canada's New Democrat Party

Candidate Daniel Fredrick

Born in Oakville, Ontario, and raised in next-door Burlington, Fredrick moved with his family to the prairie town of Camrose, Alberta as a teenager. He has studied at Augustana University College (Camrose, AB), Bishop's University (Lennoxville, PQ), University of Calgary (Calgary, AB), Université Ste.-Anne (Pointe de l'Église, NS), and Carleton University in Ottawa, as well as at the Yemen Language Center in Sana'a, Yemen. Fredrick holds a B.A. (Hons.) and an M.A. in Religious Studies, and will complete his M.A. in International Development from Carleton's Norman Paterson

has been in such diverse organizations as Amos Economic Council, UPA, the Development Corp. of Landrienne, the yes committee and the Funeral Co-operative. He was involved in the labour union as a representative for Canadian Paperworkers. "I have worked in sawmills, the forests and the mines. I'm active in my community with social and economic development," said Lemieux. He joined the Bloc as a candidate kind of fast. "It was an election we didn't expect would happen before spring but I was always interested in politics. Becoming a candidate was a surprise to me," said Lemieux. He said that he accepted the nomination to give a choice to the population of the Abitibi-Baie James-Nunavik riding. "I wanted debate about the real issues because during elections you can talk about real things. Sadly after the election those things are put aside sometimes." Lemieux said the choice of who will represent the people in the riding belongs to them and he hopes everyone will come and vote. "We're a big region and all the cuts that were made to put order into public finances, well it's in regions like ours that were hurt the most." Lemieux says that most of the available jobs in the region are part-time or seasonal. "When you lose your job, you move. It's bad for the region. We don't have as many services as elsewhere. I like this area and I like to serve my community," said Lemieux. He sees this election as a chance to serve the area on another level.

"On First Nations I am quite at ease with the Bloc Quebecois platform because long before I was a candidate for the Bloc I participated in Reflections on Native People. There were natives with us and we work with them and the First Nations communities. They are close to us," said Lemieux. He said that he had a passion for history and has looked at British colonial practices around the world. "The party is a sovereigntist movement and we were the first government in North America who recognized the Aboriginal people as nations. When we say nations we mean belonging to the land.



School of International Affairs later this year.

Fredrick's professional experiences span a wide range of fields, from groundskeeping to university teaching, and have taken him across Canada and around the world. Most recently, Fredrick has worked as a Canadian immigration consultant, assisting immigrants and refugees with their applications and cases. In this capacity, he has worked in Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates, as well as London, England, and Lahore and Islamabad, Pakistan.

Over the past year, Fredrick has volunteered his time at the office of Svend Robinson, Member of Parliament for Burnaby-Douglas, and NDP critic for international affairs and international human rights issues. He lives with his partner of ten years, Marie.

Party platforms:

Secure justice for Aboriginal peoples and First Nations and recognize the inherent right to self-government.

Make the recommendations of the Royal Commission on Aboriginal Affairs a priority. Resources devoted to negotiating land claims settlements should be increased to step up the pace of resolving these disputes and accelerate negotiations on self-government.

Recognize Quebecers as a people, which means embracing Quebec as a diverse, multi-ethnic society and the centre of one of the two linguistic societies to which immigrants to Canada belong and recognizing that Quebec must have the tools necessary to respond to the challenges this fact entails.

Canadian Reform Conservative Alliance

Candidate Francois Dionne

What is there to say about the Alliance party that hasn't already been said in a recently uncovered secret paper? The official, but confidential policy document was distributed to Alliance candidates and uncovered by the Globe and Mail newspaper. In it one discovers a very strong position on aboriginal issues. Unfortunately, the word *strong*, in this sense, is usually combined with the word *odor*. The document states that, "the Canadian Alliance will ensure that status Indians living on reserve have the same tax obligations as aboriginal people living off-reserve and all other Canadians." You can't be anymore straightforward about it. Native people shouldn't feel singled out for special treatment at the hands of the Alliance party, especially in light of the party's stand on employment equity. In short, they seek to abolish the Employment Equity Act, under which women, aboriginals, visible minorities, and the disabled are afforded greater opportunities for employment in federal government positions. The campaign ads are slick (Stockwell Day seems to jog through the woods and chop wood a great deal of the time) and the web site is nifty, but the policy side of things is a little worrisome. In case you're interested, the party is running Francois Dionne in the Abitibi-Baie James-Nunavik riding.

Canadian Action Party

The national leader is Paul Hellyer. This party hates the North American Free Trade Agreement with a vengeance. Hellyer said that they recognize that investment trade is needed but hate giving the United States "unfettered access." They also don't like the immergence of globalization.

On Aboriginal Issues Hellyer said that his party would take the Royal Commission on Aboriginal people's as a starting point. "We don't necessarily agree with everything in it but it is a good place to start the dialogue," he said. The Canadian Action party has a unique proposal for First nations people who wish to urbanize. They propose two cities, one in the east and one in the west that would be built by Aboriginal people for Aboriginal people. "It would be designed, built and governed by First Nations," said Hellyer. "It would provide jobs, training, economic opportunities and much more." He said that for Aboriginal people it would be a non-threatening urban setting. A Nation wit promptly dubbed the idea super-rez.

Christian Heritage Party of Canada

The Christian Heritage Party of Canada has 46 candidates in all, with 5 running in Quebec. Party principles are based on Biblical ethics and are unalterable according to the party. "There is one Creator God, eternally existent in three Persons, Father, Son and Holy Spirit. We believe in the Lordship of Jesus Christ. The Holy Bible to be the inspired, inerrant written Word of God and the final authority above all man's laws and government," reads the party platform. The national party leader is Ron Gray, from B.C., where he was born. Gray said his platform includes reconciliation with the First Nations and more. He sees a need for dialogue and understanding between the different cultures in Canada. He identified these as First Nations, French, English and landed immigrants.

Gray sees civil government as being under the authority of God. "We've lived the deception long enough," he said, "no matter what religion you are there is a higher standard. The state ensures that we live a moral code (ie. Laws) and the church teaches us a moral code, so I feel they compliment each other."

Gray said that his party is looking to find that standard which is transcendent rather than a flavor of the day or something that is politically correct or expedient.

Marijuana Party

Marijuana party head honcho, Boris St. Maurice was clear about being a one-issue party with a brief and direct five-word platform. St. Maurice was clear about "ending marijuana prohibition in Canada." At last count the party was fielding 63 candidates all across Canada, with the exception of Saskatchewan, Newfoundland, and P.E.I.

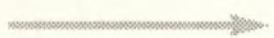
Logo & Name Search

for Reception Centre of Mistissini

The Reception Centre of Mistissini will be holding a community- wide logo search for its new facility.

NAME

We are also looking for a new name. Preferably a Cree name. Specify the meaning of your logo sent in.



Three colors in logo.

Cree
COLORS

Theme representing Youth as well as the nine (9) Cree communities.

YOUTH

Deadline dates: December 15th, 2000

DEC 15th

For further information regarding the contest, please do not hesitate to contact:

Maria MacLeod • Cindy Blacksmith

Louise Coonishish

Tel: (418) 923-3600 • Fax: (418) 923-3610

Tel: (418) 923-3600



Though the party centers on one principle, Boris informed me that all candidates are encouraged in their right to dissent and to voice their own personal views and opinions. According to Mr. St. Maurice, "marijuana is less harmful to your health than the Liberals."

Natural Law Party

The natural Law party is based in Ottawa and led by Dr. Neil Paterson.

I spoke with Miville Couture who is the national secretary and is running as a candidate in St. John, N.B. The party has 69 candidates running, including 25 in Ontario and 19 in Quebec.

First and foremost the party advocates the "development of consciousness" as the first step in any pursuit of policy. Consciousness is regarded as our "most important resource". Couture suggested that: "most people use only a fraction of their potential; the potential of the human brain is lying dormant; decisions depend on the quality of our thoughts; and we must get rid of stress and improve our memory and health. "Natural law isn't written in books, it is inscribed in our cells."

Canadian International Focus Party

The CIFP considers itself a lobby group, not a party, even though it has "party" in its name.

Apparently it began as a high school project for Father Henry Carr Secondary School, and is now focus group for several university students at York U. The CIFP will only be a party after its members "leave their university years."

Elizabeth Jackson is the party's main candidate and her message is that, "challenge for CIFP is to make Canada an example to the world of a nation that best combines prosperity with social, economic, and political equality. CIFP pledges itself to working with those the world over who seek to build a global society respectful of human rights and cultural diversity." Sounds good, but will it work outside the classroom?

Communist Party of Canada

Though the Soviets and the Eastern Bloc may have been relegated to the history books, the Communist Party is still alive and kicking. The Communists, led by Miguel Figueroa, who is running in the Danforth riding of Toronto, have 52 candidates on the slate this year (12 in Quebec), but none in the Abitibi-Baie James-Nunavik region. The party still holds to the tenets of communism as an overriding principle. In regards to native issues, the party feels that it is right for land claims to be answered and dealt with quickly.

Green Party of Canada

The Green Party, led by Joan Russow, is fielding approximately 105 candidates across the country, including Brian Jones in Nunavut. Party policy stems from a primary concern

over the environment. The party seeks a "socially just and ecologically sound economy." Official policy contains provisions to make corporations responsible for their products from cradle to grave, and to make polluters pay compensation for previous destructive use of resources. The Green Party also wants to stop the sale of Candu nuclear reactors, as well as ending uranium mining while providing a "fair and just transition for all affected workers and communities." Following is a release for the Green Party Department of Indian And Northern Affairs:

A Green party government would undertake:

-to recognize the Royal Proclamation of 1763 in its confirmation of original nations as sovereign peoples with inherent rights.

-to act on the commitment made at the United Nations conference on Environment and development (1992) to not carry out any activities on the lands of indigenous peoples that would cause environmental degradation or that would be culturally inappropriate.

-to prevent the deposit on the land of first nations peoples of toxic, hazardous, and atomic wastes, and disallow all testing of weapons over the lands of indigenous peoples.

-to seek honourable settlements with the successors of original nations that will lead to the creation of culturally and economically self-governing successors of original nations throughout Canada.

-to seek nation to nation partnerships with the original nations of North America.

-to not impose a form of self-government or a framework of nationhood on the successors of the original nations, original peoples can best choose the forms of governance appropriate for themselves.

-to ensure that no resource extraction, economic activity, or settlement occurs on land which is in dispute, unless the successors of the original nations involved consent to such activity. In the absence of consent, interim measure shall be in place. The fiduciary obligations of the Federal Government to the successors of the original nations, wherever they live in Canada, must be increased during this healing and transition process. Programs flowing from these obligations need to be planned, operated, and controlled by original people in their local communities in order to be culturally appropriate and responsive to needs.

-to call a national meeting in 1997 to discuss the implementation of the recommendations of the Royal Commission Report on Aboriginal Peoples.

-to apologize to First Nations for the Indian Act, and for residential schools.

The bad news is that the Green Party is without a candidate in northern Quebec.

Libertarian Party of Canada

Attempts to contact the Libertarian party were thwarted by



James Bay Cree Communications Society
Société des Communications Cries de la Baie James

Employment Posting Executive Director

James Bay Cree Communications Society is seeking someone with dynamic abilities to motivate officers to enhance performance, willing and able to challenge officers about productivity, manage people effectively and negotiate with third parties aggressively, knowledgeable in the business of communications and the environment of patrons.

Core Functions

Under the general direction of Board of Directors, the Executive Director is responsible concerning the management and operations of James Bay Cree Communications Society.

Duties and Responsibilities

- Ensure delivery service on administration, production and broadcasting
- Ensure all activity is directed by policies such as budget, office procedures, contracts and reporting
- Review, examine, and evaluate all project phases in planning, initiating, and implementation
- Prepare operation budget(s) for administration, Digital Radio Regional Network, and other related projects
- Perform annual performance appraisals on all employees of JBCCS
- Maintain communications with members of JBCCS, Board of Directors, Executive Committee, affiliations and associations in communications, funding agencies
- Review and examine all expenditure such as capital investments, human resource, overhead costs
- Appropriate all decision-making applications
- Assessment on mandate of JBCCS, organizational objectives and project objectives
- Maintain good relations with communities, associates and patrons

Requirements

- A degree and/or five (5) years experience in administration or communications
- Proficiency in the official languages of French and English
- Knowledgeable on computer operating systems, word processors and outputs

Date of Posting: November 1, 2000
Date of Closing: November 30, 2000 (17:00)

Please send application and curriculum vitae to:
James Bay Cree Communications Society,
75 Riverside Street, Mistissini (Quebec), G0W 1C0

LES MINES
INMET

POSTING # 104 ELECTO-DYNAMIC TECHNICIAN (Permanent)(Maintenance)

The Troilus Division is presently searching for an ELECTRO-DYNAMIC TECHNICIAN (Maintenance) to join their young and dynamic management team. The Troilus Division is a gold and copper open pit mine with a mill capacity that has been upgraded to 15,000 tpd. The mine site is located at 175 km north of Chibougamau by way of the "Route du Nord". The selected candidate will work on a 7/7 schedule (7 days of work, seven days off) and will be lodged at the site's first quality camp.

Required qualifications:

Completion of a college diploma in Electro-Dynamic or equivalent. Three to five (3-5) years experience is required. Trade certification (License C) is an asset. Experience on DEMAG shovel and Letourneau Loader. Knowledge of electric and electronic equipment. Basic knowledge of English or French, Plan reading. Knowledge in hydraulic is an asset.

Main responsibilities:

- Receives or prepares maintenance and repair procedures necessary for assembling, dismantling, control and testing of components on the mining equipment;
- Localizes all kinds of electrical failures;
- Dismantles, inspects, repairs, replaces defective parts and wiring on electrical equipment;
- Will be required to work in the shop and on the mine site;
- Performs other related duties.

Particularities and remuneration

Inmet Mining Corporation offers a competitive salary. The position is addressed to men and women. Inmet Mining Corporation encourages the hiring of Crees and hanks all applicants of their interest, but advises that only those selected for an interview will be contacted.

Those interested are to send their Curriculum vitae, no later than **November 30th, 2000** to:

Human Resources Department
Inmet Mining Corporation
Troilus Division
P.O. Box 8700
Chibougamau (Quebec)
G8P 3A9

fax: (514) 521-8376 / (418) 748-3033

(Please indicate the posting number on your envelope)

the simple fact that party leader Jean-Serge Brisson is currently in jail. I was informed over the phone, by a man who was unable to furnish me with any party information, that Mr. Brisson will be in the hoosegow for the next 105 days. If things go in his favour he might only have to serve one third of his sentence. Apparently there was an issue of not wearing a seatbelt and some unpaid tickets. The judge, "didn't want to listen," and threw the book at him.

Marxist-Leninist Party

The Marxist-Leninist Party is the only one that I looked at that had a party memorial. They are running 83 candidates in Canada with 27 in Quebec.

Sandra Smith is the national leader of the Communist Party of Canada (Marxist-Leninist). Sandra joined The Internationalists, the precursor organization of CPC(M-L), in 1968. She is a founding member of the Party, she has played a leading role in all its main work throughout the years. She is particularly known nationally and internationally for her work on the modern definition of rights and their defense. She has put forward the thesis that people have inviolable rights by virtue of being human, that modern definitions of economic, political, social, cultural and collective rights stem from this reality, and that society must harmonize the rights of the individual with those of their collectives, and those of individuals and their collectives with the general interests of society. On the basis of this work, Sandra champions the recognition of the right of Quebec to self-determination, the hereditary rights of the First Nations, and the affirmation of the collective rights of women, youth and students, the working class, national minorities, the impoverished, the disabled, and all others.

Unity Party

This party isn't active this year beyond seeking out like-minded individuals to run in the next election. Below is their platform.

As we separate ourselves from the American economy, we will strengthen our military forces. The Canadian military will join the Electronic Front (the Internet).

Canada will cancel the free-trade agreement and remove itself from the globalization of the United States' economy. White-collar criminals will be punished with jail terms, rather than fines. Monopolistic practices will be strictly outlawed.

Internet technology will play a vital role in Canadian society. The education system will be changed to help exceptional individuals. Teachers will not be forced to take part in extra-curricular activities. Environmental criminals will be punished with jail terms, rather than fines. Canada will cancel the free-trade agreement and remove itself from the globalization of the United States' economy. No ethnic groups will be given special status. Provincial governments will be abolished. The Health of the Nation will always come first.

Censorship will be abolished and both marijuana and prostitu-

tion will be legalized. Taxes on cigarettes will not be raised, although steps will be taken to persuade people not to smoke. People interested in learning about the party or running as a candidate in the next election (2004) can look at the website: www.oocanada.com

Dead but not forgotten Party section!!!!

Confederation of Regions Party

Party for the Commonwealth of Canada- We couldn't find any candidates, the Reform got them all.

Rest of Canada Party- not running as it couldn't field enough candidates. They were interested in forming a coalition with the Bloc Quebecois to curtail Federal duties and responsibilities.

Canada Party- No answer to repeated phone calls.

Cannabis Canada Party- Joined the Marijuana Party. Operates out of the Phoenix Mission of God.... Cool.... Looking for candidates!!!! Fringe Benefits?!?!?!?

Socialist Party of Canada - The slogan is catchy: "Election 2000, Don't Get Fooled Again!" Steve Szalai, the general secretary of the party informed me that the Socialists aren't running any candidates in the election, though they are running a campaign. His message is a simple one: "Vote for what you want, not for what's on offer."

Socialist Alternative- Another effective slogan: "Big business has 5 parties, workers need one of their own!" Unfortunately, the phone was disconnected, so we're still unsure of the *alternative*.

Canadian Clean Start Party

The phone call went something like this: Is this the Clean Start Party? Yes, what's left of it."

They're not running in the current election, but leader James K. Smith, of Surrey, B.C., assured me that they still exist.

The party appears to consist of a few scattered members, namely James K. Smith & "a couple of buddies".

The Clean Start platform is to dump the debt rather than pay it. Mr. Smith suggests that the, "debt is a plot to destroy Canada." He strongly advocates that we "just stiff the bastards" and not pay the debt. When asked about the issue of self determination, Smith replied that, "it's very easy if you want out of Canada, just win a civil war." Their website mentions that the party will accept gay candidates, but not if they're "flaming." In terms of native land claims, Smith notes that you don't earn "title to the land by camping on it." The party is inactive at the moment, but will be ready to leap into action once it becomes apparent that we can't pay off the debt. We can hardly wait.

"There are three federal parties that could have a strong influence on the future of our communities: the Liberals, the Alliance Party and if there is a minority government elected, the Bloc Quebecois. We should look very carefully at what they are saying about aboriginal peoples in their election platforms."

1. continue to work with aboriginal peoples to address the economic and social challenges they face;
2. promote aboriginal language instruction in schools;
3. build and strengthen relations with aboriginal peoples;
4. promote aboriginal economic skills development and prosperous aboriginal economies;

1. **promote equality for aboriginal people with the rest of Canadians;**
2. **promote aboriginal participation in the mainstream economy but not through special "race based quotas" or special rights;**
3. **set up aboriginal communities as municipal governments that would be under provincial and federal jurisdictions;**
4. **allow aboriginal governments to collect local taxes;**
5. **require aboriginal peoples to pay income and sales taxes;**
6. **make sure that treaty settlements are final, fair and affordable.**



- 1. promote the aboriginal right to their own culture, language and identity;**
- 2. a new partnership between the Quebecois and the Aboriginals;**
- 3. more federal funding for aboriginal housing;**
- 4. implementation of the recommendations of the Royal Commission on Aboriginal Peoples.**

"In my point of view, it is time for us to vote. It should be recognized that in our electoral district if you do not vote, you are giving your support to the Bloc Quebecois by letting someone else's vote decide. By voting we will increase our role in the decisions made about our future."



GRAND COUNCIL OF THE CREES (EYYOU ASTCHEE)
GRAND CONSEIL DES CRIS (EYYOU ASTCHEE)



Grand Chief Ted Moses

CREE REGIONAL AUTHORITY
ADMINISTRATION RÉGIONALE CRIE

LET THE MUSIC LIFT OUR HEARTS

BY XAVIER KATAQUAPIT

Not long ago I discovered a fantastic initiative in Nibinamik First Nation, north of Thunder Bay, Ontario. A music program has been running that is making a difference in the lives of young people in the community. This program is basically set up with instruction by two professional musicians to several community members. The idea is that the two professionals train key people, mainly on violin, guitar, percussion and voice lessons, and then these people in turn teach others in the community.

I talked to Chief Donald Sofea of the Nibinamik First Nation, and he had great things to say about this program. He believes, as I do, that the introduction of music into people's lives is a very positive thing with all kinds of beneficial results. The program has already resulted in the formation of a music band and people are looking forward to having live entertainment at community events.

In a way this program should provide beneficial results for years to come by simply introducing people to the wonderful world of music. Chris Krienke and Ardon Broyere are heading up this musical instruction. They visit the community and work with trainees who in turn go into the school to provide lessons to students. The local education authority has been very helpful and supportive of this program with the allotment of a classroom. In addition, guitars and fiddles were purchased to be used by the students.

Many First Nations communities have the benefit of sports instruction, and activities such as hockey, baseball and volleyball are all provided. The arts are often not part of the scene in remote communities. Nibinamik has put together a formula that is giving its young people a chance to become involved in the arts through this music program.

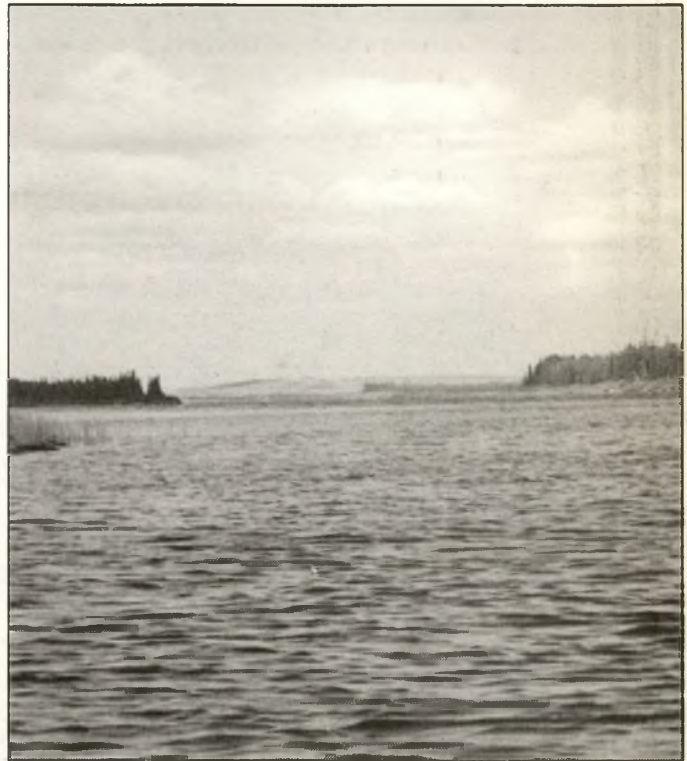
I have a friend who claims that if there is music in a house there is love in that home. I really believe that music has a healing quality and also contributes to enhancing the creativity in people's minds. Everyone who is introduced to music through this program will have been awakened to the comforting and positive world of music.

Most of these people will probably simply learn to play an instrument and enjoy entertaining themselves as well as others. There is also the chance that some of the participants in this program will become very enthused and move ahead into a career related to music. My hope is that with the seeds that are planted in these participants many people will be touched by the power of music.

One of the best things that has happened to me in the last few years is the fact that I have learned to play the guitar. My guitar is my best friend. When I am sad I go to it for comfort; when I am happy I pick it up and strum to my heart's content. It is a great idea to try to reach every young person with the opportunity to learn to play a musical instrument. This is a pastime that has great rewards and creates much satisfaction. It also is a boost for a person's self-esteem.

First Nations people are close to the land and to the heartbeat of mother earth. A lot of our culture is based on the sound of the drum. I know many great First Nations musicians and I see more and more developing all the time. The Nibinamik First Nation and the program organizers and funders — Matawa First Nation Management and Mamo-Wichi-Hetiwin Employment and Training — deserve a pat on back for introducing the healing powers of music to community members.

I hope that this idea catches on and spreads to other First Nations communities and, especially, to remote First Nations communities. Let the music lift our hearts.



Apology

Letter to The Nation:

I would like to apologize to my community members of the Native Friendship Centre of Montreal. I was elected as a board member at the NFCM. One week later I had to submit a letter of resignation as a board member and due to personal reasons. I know I am letting a lot of people down due to my resignation, but it was for my best interest and it was not an easy decision. I really wanted to work hard for my community.

I would like to thank those who elected me and those who supported me before and after my resignation. I would like to thank all the employees and volunteers at the Native Friendship Centre of Montreal. They work hard and try to help our people.

But I still want to be here for all of you if you need to talk or something. You know I'll be there. In the future, I hope this will not harm me if I'm ready to be back or if the community will let me be back on the board. Maybe in a year or two or three or even in 10 years time when I really am ready. I'm still staying on the Youth Council of Montreal and on the national level of the Aboriginal Youth Council as secretary.

The Friendship Centre of Montreal is always in need of donations of clothing or cash donations, and the same thing for the Youth Council of Montreal. The Youth Council has activities and at the same time we try to provide food. A lot of the activities cost money too. The council is in the same building, at 2001 St-Laurent Blvd., at the corner of Ontario and St-Laurent, near the metro station. For more information, please call (514) 499-1854. If anyone would like more information on me (joke) or anything else, email me at maryniq@hotmail.com.

On the national level we the youth need about \$20,000 to have our next meeting in Ottawa in January 2001. If we do not have that money we won't have another meeting until May or April 2001. I know the other youth councils are trying to get that money, but trying to get some money from my end of it will help too. (Please check out www.auysop.com, the web site of the National Youth Council for more info on us and what we do.) We just had our first meeting at the end of October in Ottawa, at the same time as the National Associations of Friendship Centres, and it was really informative.

Also, I work at the Native Women's Shelter of Montreal as a night attendant. They need some clothing donations or cash donations, or if you're a Native woman and do not have a place to stay, come on by and stay with us. For more info please call (514) 933-4688. With all that I do, I'm just lacking sleep, but I'm happy with what I do. I always helped out in wherever I was. It is a need and hopefully I'll be the first woman Grand Chief of my community of Whapmagoostui of the nation. Thanks for

taking time to read my letter!

Mary Niquanicappo, Montreal

Leadership

Letter to The Nation:

Referring to Francois Gunner's letter in the recent edition of The Nation, public offices and figures work for us. We ordinary people, do not work for them.

Public figures and offices in this day and age must be prepared to be scrutinized for their "performance or lack of it" as we have a magazine we can write to now.

Some leaders (public property) do not realize that because of their position(s) (the role entrusted to them by the people), verbal agreements and commitments by them are as good as written because of their authoritative role. And at times, they tend to forget or not live up to them. From there on, it's either one of these, honest forgetfulness or "abusing of powers."

Whether it's "conflict of interests" or somebody "abusing power" or playing the "waiting game" until the person is too tired or exhausted to fight the "system" - this is the usual stuff dished out by "powermongers." Sad thing is, this does not need to happen. "Fear" should never be the "dictator" in your life.

A suggestion: We need a local and/or regional ombudsman we can write to when we have problems like these mentioned above. For the "little guy" it would save on lawyers' fees and in the end also save money for different "entities" due to settling issues before being sued.

For the time being, a column or a letter in The Nation is sufficient for "David" now - referring to the "David and Goliath" story in the Bible.

I can relate to Francois Gunner's situation. He says, "It's been going on two years." This "guy" is a family man, volunteers his time to help his community. I know Francois. I am sad this happened. We run and own the Cree Health Board. Things must change for the better.

Note: In no way did I feel Francois aired "dirty laundry." One way or another, as a Cree, I would have heard about "his case." It is a small world we live in.

Paul Dixon, Waswanipi

Letters Policy: All letters must be received one week previous to printing of the Nation to be considered for publication. The Nation reserves the right to edit, modify or reject letters. Letters should be addressed to the Editor in Chief. Mailing address can be found on Page 4 near the bottom of the masthead..



Conseil Cri de la santé et des services
sociaux de la Baie James
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Cree Board of Health and Social Services
of James Bay

JOB OPENING

The Cree Board of Health and Social Services of James Bay is a Cree entity responsible for the administration of Health & Social Services for all residents under its jurisdiction. This jurisdiction comprises nine Cree communities and their surrounding territories.

...casual replacements for recall list Emergency workers

**In all the Cree communities of the James Bay and
their surrounding territories.**

DUTIES:

In accordance with the policy and procedures of the CBHSS and within the framework of the Youth Offenders Act, Youth Protection Act, L.H.S.S.S and the CLSC's mandate, the Emergency worker will be called upon to provide support services to the members of the community, on a casual basis outside regular hours, evenings and weekends. It will also include to receive, evaluate and apply emergency measures, if necessary in new signalements and making the necessary notes to update all interventions under these laws. He will also have to do crisis intervention work.

SPECIFIC CONDITIONS AND QUALIFICATION:

- Must have a Secondary V Diploma or relevant experience and willingness to get training. CEGEP diploma in the field of Social Services would be an asset.
- Proper knowledge of their community Social environment.
- Bilingual: Cree and English, French would be an asset.
- Ability to communicate with people in crisis situation and to defuse the crisis by establishing a helping relationship.
- Must show an interest and ability for paperwork and written reports.
- Capacity to deal with social problems.
- Willingness to attend training regularly to develop skills.
- Ability to work in collaboration with CLSC community workers, NNADAP workers, and other medical Social Services staff and entities within and outside the communities.

The persons interested in this position are asked to forward their resume by November 17, 2000 to:

Colette Fink
Personnel Management Consultant
Human Resources Management
Cree Board of Health & Social Services of James Bay
Chisasibi, Quebec J0M 1E0
E-mail: hrmgmt@cancom.net
Fax: (819) 855-2098

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In Memoriam...and Thanks to all... KITCHI MEEGWETCH...

To all the Volunteers from Moosonee, Moose Factory, Webequie, Fort Albany, Kashechewan, Attawapiskat, Kasabonika, Waskaganish, Kingston, Ft. Hope, Toronto, Ottawa, Timmins, Charlottesville, Virginia, U.S.A. and Fort Smith, N.W.T. for their personal and professional sacrifices in committing themselves in the Search & Rescue Operation from October 1st - November 5, 1999. Your role, no matter how small it was, resulted in the recovery of all our loved ones; Billy (Bayou) Echum, Kenneth Echum, Anita Echum, Johnny Namagoose, Mistie Chum, Michael Echum, Mark Echum and Keisha Echum.

"All volunteers from the above communities are greatly respected for their kindness and caring towards their fellow Canadian citizens, whomever they may be. These dedicated and compassionate community members were critical partners to the success of the overall effort"

Taken from the Final Report of "The James Bay Tragedy" by Moose Factory Search & Rescue.

To the coordinators at Moose Factory Search & Rescue and Waskaganish Search & Rescue; we have never seen efficient teamwork as you all had displayed. Great work, we are extremely grateful that you provided your knowledge, skills and undying personal and professional sacrifices to our families. **OUR HATS OFF TO YOU'S.**

Also, to the following: Nishanabe Aski Police Services, Ontario Provincial Police, Rescue Coordination Centre, Ministry of Natural Resources and the Canadian Rangers. Thank you all for your professional services.

Also, to all communities organizations, businesses and individuals who donated through monetary, supplies, fuel, etc. and most of all to all those who gave their prayers through correspondence and in spirit. **Meegwetch!**

A very special thank you to Father Wayne and Deacon Ray, for their tireless visitations to our families during the crisis. Your strength through out this tragedy, you all have shown the most important trait of all God's Children, CARING. Thirty Six days in the Fall of '99 has been the toughest test we had to face as a family, community and as First Nations. It tested our faith in our Creator of why our loved ones were taken from us. However, as each day passed, each loved one found and questions answered, our faith in our Creator became stronger.

Every day since this tragedy, we have individually struggled in our own daily lives to accept the way things have changed; yet with the kind words of encouragement and through prayers we all receive day-to-day from people all over, it just makes it that easier to move on and carry the wonderful memories of those we lost.

Though it is almost impossible to put all your names down, we all say **Kitchi Meegwetch** to you.

In Brotherhood and Sisterhood...May God Bless You All

Myra & Kailson Echum, Ryan Echum, Kenny Echum Jr., Steven Wapaches, Andrew Wapaches Jr., Winnifred Namagoose & Family, Bertie & Winnie Namagoose & Family, Steve, Lee Anne and Shay Chum, Ellen Turner & Family, Lizzie Rickard & Family, Leonard Echum & Family, Charlie Echum Jr. & Family, Marie Echum, Raymond Echum, Beverly Echum & Family, Marcelle Small & Family, Johnny Echum, Elizabeth Chum, Mary Mianscum & Family, Roger Chum & Family, Gerald Chum & Family, Verna Chouches & Family, Ron Chum & Family, The Whiskeychan Families, Katapaytuk Families

First Nation Members Living Off-Reserve

Have you Registered to Vote in your First Nation Election On-Reserve?

If you are a First Nation member living off-reserve and you wish to participate in your community's *Indian Act* elections and referendums held on or after November 20, 2000 - register to vote by providing your name and address to your band office.

First Nation elections between November 20, 2000 and January 7, 2001:

1. You must register no later than 31 days before the election.
2. Nomination meetings must be held 23 days before the election.
3. The Electoral Officer will send mail-in ballots to registered off-reserve voters three weeks before the election.

First Nation communities with terms of office expiring between November 20, 2000 and January 7, 2001:

Ontario:

Big Grassy
Batchewana
Whitefish River

Alberta:

O'Chiese
Tsuu T'ina
Driftpile

Manitoba:

Brokenhead
Pine Creek
Swan Lake
Ebb and Flow

Saskatchewan:

Key
Fishing Lake
Canoe Lake
Flying Dust
Waterhen
Witcheakan Lake

British Columbia:

Fort Nelson
Musqueam
Semiahmoo
Cape Mudge
Comox
Nazko

First Nation election on or after January 8, 2001:

1. You must register no later than 79 days before the election.
2. Nomination meetings will be held six weeks before the election.
3. The Electoral Officer will send mail-in ballots and voting information to registered off-reserve voters five weeks before the election.

For more information on these first stage changes to the regulations, or the plans for the next stage of consultations on *Corbiere* contact:

1-888-543-0004

Website: www.inac.gc.ca



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CLASSIFIEDS

101-Birthday

I would like to wish Angela Jolly a Happy Birthday On November 14, 2000. You deserve the very best on your birthday and always...Take care of your daughter "Jacie". So, tell me how do you like being a mommy? Fr: Friend, Brenda-Rose

Birthday Greetings going out to a special auntie "Maggie Minister" We hope you enjoy your day with a delicious cake made by Patricia...Need pepto-bismol??? **HAPPY BIRTHDAY!!!** Fr: Brenda-Rose, Valerish, Paatricia and Tyra-Lynnsh (Nem.)

Happy Belated Birthday to a very special person in our lives, his name is Joseph Jolly. His birthday was on Oct. 26th. With love always, your wife Dinah and kids, Bruce-Wayne, Helen-Margaret and Darcy. (Chisasibi)

Happy Belated Birthday to a special lit-

tle girl who turned 3 years old on Oct. 27th. Her name is Helen-Margaret D. Jolly and also to Johnny and Gabriel Bearskin, their birthday is also on Oct. 27. Happy 12th Birthday boys. From Dinah, Bruce-Wayne and Darcy Jolly.

Happy 1st birthday to our precious little girl Shaylynn Grace Karraly Neeposh on Nov. 14, 2000. We thank the lord for blessing us with a beautiful daughter to love and care for. Have a wonderful birthday, hope your dreams and wishes come true as you blow out your 1st candle.

May God bless and keep you always. With lots of love, hugs and kisses. Mommy & Daddy (Sylvia & Shaun)

Belated birthday wishes going out to my friend Julianna Moar on Nov. 5, 2000. Hope you enjoyed your 1st birthday! From your friend Shaylynn N.

Birthday wishes going out to Gordon R. Blackned on Nov. 5, 2000 and to his son Brendan on Nov. 8, 2000 and to Shaylynn on Nov. 14, 2000. Happy Birthday and God bless you all. Love and prayers. Gordon & Sarah B.

Wishing a Happy Birthday to Janie'sh Iserhoff on November 10, 2000. We hope you have a blast on your Special day cause it falls on a Friday-Lucky you- from your co-workers at Mitchuap Restaurant. P.S. Make sure you have lots of rest before you come back to work on Monday.

I would like to say Happy Birthday to my uncle Robbie Niquanicappo it is on December 7, 2000 and he is with his family in the Pas, Manitoba. I hope your wish comes true and take of your sons Christopher,

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Gordon, Jesse boy, little Norman and your wife Joan. I love you all very much. Happy Birthday and love you to my cousin Noel Masty who'll be turning 17 on December 25, 2000. I would like to say hi and love you. To my dear mother Margaret Niquanicappo, grandma Amy, grandpa Charlie, auntie Betsy Masty, cousin Noel Masty, Beverly George, baby Westly(sp.?) uncle Joseph who is in Chisasibi, we miss you Joe, uncle Samson, we miss you too and hang in there, you'll be home in no time. Also, I would like to say hi to my community of Whapmagoostui and my friends of the other nine communities, you're still all in my heart, I miss everyone and maybe some of you can send me a letter or e-mail. Just to see how all of you are doing, maybe send some pictures too!, thanks. By the way, my birthday is

coming up on December 21-(hint hint) I need some cash, a lamp, hand made stuff, a blanket, CD's (just joking), no one has to give me these, just a birthday card will do. Thanks! Here is my e-mail maryniq@hotmail.com & my address: 2330 Lincoln # 2C, Montreal, QC, H3H 1J4. Betsy your always losing my address, maybe you can keep this for safe keeping, love you. Yours truly Mary Niquanicappo.

Happy Birthday to you, Happy Birthday to you, Happy Birthday dear uncle Jason, Happy Birthday to youuu. Happy Birthday to my uncle Jason Snowboy His birthday is on Nov. 8, 2000. Have fun on your special day. Don't party too much. I miss you so much. Love always your little nephew Tommy Snowboy'sh.

I would like to wish a happy birthday to my

brother Jason Snowboy on Nov. 8, 2000. **HAPPY BIRTHDAY.** Don't party too much. I miss you, take care. See you soon! Love always your sister Lucy Snowboy.

Happy Birthday to our Grandpa Glifford Cheezo on Nov. 2, 2000. Happy birthday Grandpa and many more to come. We miss you so much, love always, you're 2 granddaughters Lucy and Marcia Snowboy.

300 Personals

I would like to say hi to my friends in Chisasibi

Sarah Ottereyes, Jonilee Tapiatic, Kathy Sam, Sarah Sam, Grettah Rupert, Amanda Sam, Nathalie Shem and al the other girls i forgot to mention their name's and Also the girl's who i've graatuated with Christine Kitty, April Moar, Margaret House and to Bessie House. I **HOPE TO HEAR YOU GIRLS SOON, I DON'T KNOW WHEN I'M COMING AGAIN. FROM A FRIEND IN MIST- ISSINI RACHEL LONGCHAP**



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